



## THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MILITARY MEDICINE AND PHARMACY.

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THE following notes on the First International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy have been extracted from the Official Report, and will, doubtless, be of interest to officers of the Corps.

The first International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy, which was organized by the Belgian Medical Service, was held at Brussels last July, and it was decided to hold similar assemblies every two or three years.

To the first Congress representatives of the Medical Services of all allied and neutral powers were invited, and, as a result, besides a large number of repre-

sentatives who attended in a private capacity, delegations were sent by the following countries and societies:—

Argentine Republic.	Japan.
Brazil.	Mexico.
Britain.	Morocco.
Chili.	Norway.
China.	Poland.
Czecho-Slovakia.	Spain.
Denmark.	Sweden.
France.	Switzerland.
Guatemala.	United States of America.
Holland.	The International Red Cross Committee.
Italy.	The League of Red Cross Societies.

The Congress, which proved a great success, was held under the patronage of His Majesty the King of the Belgians, who was present at the opening meeting and received the principal delegates.

The main object was to profit from the lessons learned during the Great War, and the following subjects were discussed:—

- (i) The Clinical and Therapeutic Study of War Gases.
- (ii) The Campaign against Tuberculosis in the Army.
- (iii) The Campaign against Venereal Disease in the Army.
- (iv) The General Organization of the Army Medical Service.
- (v) The Lessons of the War in the Treatment of Fractures of the Limbs.
- (vi) Water Purification in the Field.

At the final session of the Congress certain resolutions were unanimously approved. These are literally translated as follows:—

(1) The International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy has obtained results which justify great hope for the future.

At a certain period of life, towards the age of 20, in every country, young men, including the best of the race, come under the care of the Military Medical Service.

It is easy to imagine how important a part the latter can play in the health of the race; it is not too much to say that from the point of view of eugenics it has a world-wide rôle.

(2) This world-wide rôle cannot be played to the full on account of dispersion of effort. There exists in military medicine a live force which must be centralized, and it is only by official organization of military medicine in every country that measures can be instituted which would be certain of application, and thoroughly supervised.

(3) The periodic reunion of a Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy would permit of the realization of this object, and the whole human race would profit from the advances made by one or other of the nations.

It would maintain effectively the association established by this Congress between military doctors and pharmacists.

It is to be understood that the same rules which were in force at the Brussels Congress will apply to future Congresses.

(4) It is also desirable that an International Association of Military Medicine and Pharmacy should be formed under the same conditions.

(5) With this object in view a Permanent Committee has been elected by the Brussels Congress. It is designed to centralize all the results obtained, and is charged with the arrangements for the next Congress.

The Committee is composed as follows:—

*President.*

Lieutenant-Général Wibin, Inspector-General of the Belgian Army Medical Service.

*Members.*

Médecin principal de 2e classe Uzac (France).

Commandant A. Van Baumberghen (Spain).

Surgeon Commander W. S. Bainbridge (U.S. Naval Reserve).

Major A. D. Stirling, D.S.O. (Great Britain).

Lieutenant Colonel F. Caccia (Italy).

Lieutenant Pharmacien De Fonseca (Brazil).

Lieutenant Colonel Thomann, Pharmacien-en-chef (Switzerland).

Médecin Major 2e classe Voncken (Belgium), *Secretary.*

At a meeting of the Permanent Committee held recently in Brussels, it was decided to hold the next Congress at Rome during the spring of 1923, and the following questions were drawn up:—

(1) *Evacuation.*

(i) General principles of evacuation from the armies in the field.

(ii) Organization of evacuation, bearing in mind the limitations imposed by the condition of the patients.

(iii) Adaptation of medical and surgical methods of treatment in accordance with the varying conditions imposed by the necessity of evacuation.

(2) Collaboration between the competent civil and military authorities in questions of social hygiene, physical training and prevention of disease.

(a) Statistical consideration of disease—tuberculosis, venereal disease, alcoholism, mental defects—the sorting out of such cases, and measures of prevention.

(b) Vaccination and protective inoculation.

(3) A critical study of the methods of disinfection and disinfestation in both peace and war.

(4) The treatment of penetrating wounds of the chest and of their sequelæ.

(5) *Pharmacy.*—Chemical laboratories in the field, their rôle and the methods employed.

Two reports to be given on each subject as follows:—

Q. (1) By Italy and by France.

Q. (2) By Italy and by Britain and America (conjointly).

Q. (3) By Italy and by Spain and Switzerland (conjointly).

Q. (4) By Italy and by Serbia.

Q. (5) By Italy and by Czecho-Slovakia.

The *Archives Médicales Belges* has been adopted as the official journal of the Association, and officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps are invited to send contributions to that journal. These will be published in the language of the author.